

# Alaska Community Forest Council



## Role of the Council

The Alaska Community Forest Council is a nonprofit organization that promotes and supports preserving, planting, and caring for trees and forests in Alaska's communities. The purposes of the council are to:

- Encourage public education and involvement in community forestry in order to increase knowledge of, and appreciation for, the benefits of community trees and their management
- Encourage and support outreach into Alaska's communities to ensure that the council is sensitive and responsive to the cultural, economic and geographic diversity found in Alaska
- Promote and build effective partnerships among public agencies, industry, businesses, local governments, schools and volunteer groups
- Provide a public forum for sharing information so that the most beneficial and economical community forestry policies and practices are identified
- Advocate for, and provide leadership on, appropriate community forestry policies, programs, and practices in Alaska.
- Provide public recognition and support for urban and community forestry achievements in Alaska.

The council is also the advisory council to the State Forester for the Alaska Community Forestry Program. It gives advice on appropriate ways to define, develop, direct and deliver the program to Alaskan communities. The council provides advice on program priorities, and feedback on its effectiveness. It reviews the criteria and guidelines for community forestry grants administered by the division, and recommends projects for funding.

The council strives to represent the professional, geographic, cultural, ethnic, economic and community diversity of Alaska by including members from around the state. This diversity and range of interests and experi-

ences make the council a valuable source of information and public opinion. Members' recommendations are important to the decision-making process and their support is crucial to the success of the program.

The council has sponsored conferences and workshops on community forestry, and tree planting and care. Members also provide assistance to grant recipients, local governments, schools, and community groups.

Members are asked to make the necessary time commitment to prepare for and attend all meetings; handle the normal business responsibilities of a nonprofit corporation; serve on a working committee; participate in council discussions and work toward consensus on issues, programs and projects. Council members are also responsible for raising funds to support council activities and other urban and community forestry efforts in the state.

Members participate in an orientation before the first meeting and are provided many excellent educational experiences and opportunities for hands-on training.

Council members serve without monetary compensation, however, the Alaska Community Forestry Program covers the costs of teleconferences and travel to regular meetings.

## Public Participation

The council meets all day on the second Friday of March, May, August, and November, usually in Anchorage. Members of the public are encouraged to attend meetings and serve on committees to help achieve the council's goals.

## Application Process

Members serve three-year terms, beginning on July 1. Applications are available during the month of April and new members are selected at the May meeting. Copies of the bylaws are available upon request.

Urban and community forests are composed of the trees, vegetation and other natural elements of a forest, plus the roads, buildings, utilities and other developments found where people live. Healthy, well-maintained trees and forests improve the quality of life in communities. However, coordinated management of the natural and built environment is necessary to maximize the benefits of each and to allow them to complement each other.

The Alaska Community Forestry Program encourages communities to provide comprehensive management

of their forest resources. Program staff provide information on how to maintain community trees and forests that are healthy, attractive, productive, and safe.

The two staff members and the council work together to foster partnerships between government agencies, businesses, and community volunteers that promote and support urban forestry.

The U.S. Forest Service provides funds for community forestry through the state forester's office in each state.

# Alaska Community Forest Council

P.O. Box 242613, Anchorage, Alaska 99524

Seat	Member	Term*
A. Arborist	Pat McArdle / Fairbanks	2005
B. Forester	Mike Rath / Anchorage	2004
C. Municipal Planner Seat	Denise Saigh / Anchorage	2004
D. Landscape Architect	Monique Anderson / Anchorage	2006
E. Horticulture	Ann Lawton / Eagle River	2004
F. Construction/Right-of-Way	James DePasquale / Homer	2006
G. Small Community Service	Peter Simpson / Fairbanks	2005
H. Community Forestry/Beautification	Corinne Smith / Anchorage	2003
I. Industry/Business	Tom Hines / Homer	2005
J. Alaska Cooperative Extension	Sue Lincoln / Eagle River	2006
K. Member-at-Large	Sondra Stanway / Juneau	2005
L. Member-at-Large	Warren Templin / Palmer	2004
M. Member-at-Large	John Alden / Fairbanks	2005
N. Member-at-Large	Dave Wolfe / Anchorage	2004
O. Member-at-Large	Rebecca Schwartz / Wasilla	2006

\* Terms end on June 30 of the year noted.

## Program Members

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